

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the method of the invention, through skillful utilization of communication network means which have seen marked development in recent years, by having the user himself acquire an image signal of a contact lens and transmit it for analysis to a server apparatus that performs overall administration, it is possible to evaluate the condition of the contact lens and to provide the user with the results of the evaluation. It is accordingly possible for a user to inspect a contact lens that he is currently using for defects with a high degree of accuracy in an exceedingly easy way simply by ~~primarily~~temporarily removing the contact lens, and without the need to go to any particular place, the need for long term obligation, or the need to leave the contact lenses with someone. Thus, post-sale user support for contact lenses individualized for each user can be realized advantageously without imposing an excessive burden on the user.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 31, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In particular, the image signal and reference image signal acquiring means 22, ~~38-33~~in this in this embodiment are targeted on contact lenses 20 or 32, and are designed to capture protein or lipid stain deposits thereon in the form of an image signal. In FIG. 2, 40 is an irradiating means for irradiating contact lens 20 (32) with excitation light. In particular, it is designed to have a light source able to produce light of predetermined wavelength (excitation light) that is able to excite protein or lipid lens contaminants, respectively, and cause them to fluoresce. Such a light source can be selected appropriately for use from among various

lighting devices known to date, such as a xenon lamp, mercury lamp, deuterium lamp, tungsten-iodine lamp, or laser lighting device.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 35, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

By means of detecting only light that has passed through the optical filter 46 with the aforementioned detecting means 44, in the image signal and reference image signal acquiring means 22, ~~38, 33, there are, there are~~ respectively acquired from contact lenses 20 and 32 a fluorescent image of the lens having contaminants deposited thereon (contaminated lens fluorescent image: a) by way of an image signal representing contamination by protein or lipid deposits, and a fluorescent image of an unused lens (reference lens fluorescent image: b). In the present embodiment, each of these is obtained in the form of an electrical signal.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 35, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In an exemplary structure for the image signal and reference image signal acquiring means 22, ~~38, 33, the contact, the contact~~ lens 20, 32 is immersed in a suitable measuring medium 50 (e.g. an aqueous medium) contained in a shallow bottomed, circular Petri dish 48, in which measurements are carried out. Accordingly, the Petri dish 48 is provided with a center alignment member 52 as a lens centering mechanism for maintaining the measured contact lens 20, 32 at a given placement location, whereby the contact lens 20, 32 can be easily and stably set with the lens center of the contact lens 20, 32 substantially aligned with the center axes of the irradiating means 40 and detecting means 44.